GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3894
ANSWERED ON:24.03.2017
Shortage of Specialist Doctors
Charitra Shri Ram;Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar;Jayadevan Shri C. N.;Jayavardhan Dr. Jayakumar;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao;Singh Shri Bharatendra

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of specialist doctors at secondary and tertiary levels, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government has approved over 4000 post graduate seats in medical colleges and hospitals across the country for the academic session of 2017-18;

(c) if so, the details thereof State/UT-wise including Kerala along with objectives;

(d) whether the Government has also decided to amend the teacher-students ratio in clinical subjects in Government medical colleges and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to boost the availability of doctors in rural areas of the country?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

(a): As per information provided by Medical Council of India, there are a total 10,12,428 allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Council/Medical Council of India as on 31st December, 2016. Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 8.10 lakh doctors may be actually available for active service. The data regarding number of specialist doctors in the country is not maintained centrally.

(b) & (c): For the academic year 2017-18, the post graduate seats have been increased by 3899 including DNB seats which are equivalent to MD/MS. The details of increased seats, State/UT − wise is at annexure.

(d): The ratio of teachers to students in public funded Government Medical Colleges for Professor has already been increased from 1:2 to 1:3 in all clinical subjects and for Asso. Prof. from 1:1 to 1:2 if the Asso. Prof. is a unit head.

(e): Health being a State subject, the primary responsibility to ensure availability of doctors and other health professionals in public health facilities lies with the State Governments. However, under National Health Mission (NHM), technical and financial support is being provided to States/UTs for strengthening their health care system. Financial incentive is also provided to MBBS as well as PG doctors for serving in the rural areas. These incentives are over and above the salaries of the doctors concerned.

Further, to encourage doctors working in remote and difficult areas, the MCI with the previous approval of Central Government, has amended the Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 to provide :-
I. 50% of the seats in Post Graduate Diploma Courses shall be reserved for Medical Officers in the Government service, who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas. After acquiring the PG Diploma, the Medical Officers shall serve for two more years in remote and/or difficult areas; and

II. Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas as upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.